

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory, comprising:

a hand-held controller device providing data processing circuitry, a power supply, a display, a means for manual data entry, such as a touchscreen or keypad;

incorporating a barcode scanner;

providing software enabling said controller to interpret Universal Product Codes and other barcodes, and to accept data input entered by said means of manual data entry, offering information in human-readable form on said display, which said software decodes by acting upon one or more custom databases, to be supplied by any of a multitude of sources offering preexisting databases or from purpose-built databases;

providing a machine-readable memory store, including:

at least one integral custom-made decoding database;

at least one dynamic memory storage area, said dynamic memory storage area storing one or more editable databases, including a plurality of inventory identification codes and,

further incorporating software enabling access to said dynamic databases to allow them to be edited in order to keep them up to date, and to allow them to be queried in order to display information for said user.

2. A system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory, comprising:

a hand-held controller device providing data processing circuitry, a power supply, a display, a means for manual data entry, such as a touchscreen or keypad;

incorporating a barcode scanner;

providing software enabling said controller to interpret Universal Product Codes and other barcodes, and to accept data input entered by said means of manual data entry, offering information in human-readable form on said display, which said software decodes by means of one or more custom databases, to be supplied by any of a multitude of sources offering preexisting databases or from purpose-built databases;

providing a machine-readable memory store, including;

at least one dynamic memory storage area, said dynamic memory storage area storing one or more editable databases, including a plurality of inventory identification codes;

further incorporating software enabling access to said dynamic databases to allow them to be edited in order to keep them up to date, and to allow them to be queried in order to display information for said user and

a portal for digital communication whereby said controller may communicate with other devices via one or more of a number of commonly used means, such as an infra-red port, a docking cradle or a wireless link.

3. The system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory according to claim 2, further including at least one dynamic database not associated with a barcode translation database, whereby data relating to a multitude of household inventory items, entered manually or electronically, may be stored.

4. A system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory, comprising:

a hand-held controller device providing data processing circuitry, a display, a keypad;

interfacing with a barcode scanner, and

providing software enabling said controller to interpret Universal Product Codes and other barcodes, and to accept data input entered by means of, said keypad, offering information in human-readable form on said display, which said software decodes by means of one or more custom databases, to be supplied by any of a multitude of sources offering preexisting databases or from purpose-built databases;

providing a machine-readable memory store, including;

at least one integral custom-made decoding database;

at least one dynamic memory storage area, said dynamic memory storage area storing one or more editable databases, including a plurality of inventory identification codes and,

further incorporating software enabling access to said dynamic databases to allow them to be edited in order to keep them up to date, and to allow them to be queried in order to display information for said user.

5. The system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory according to claim 4, wherein said controller is equipped for communication with other devices via one or more of a number of commonly used means, such as an infra-red port, a docking cradle or a wireless link

6. The system for assembling, accessing and maintaining a portable personal inventory according to claim 5, further including at least one dynamic database not associated with a barcode translation database, providing storage for data relating to a multitude of household inventory items, entered manually or by electronic means, said data consisting of identification codes representing individual items or group thereof.